

ABSOLUTE RATING: Average
IMPROVEMENT RATING: Unsatisfactory

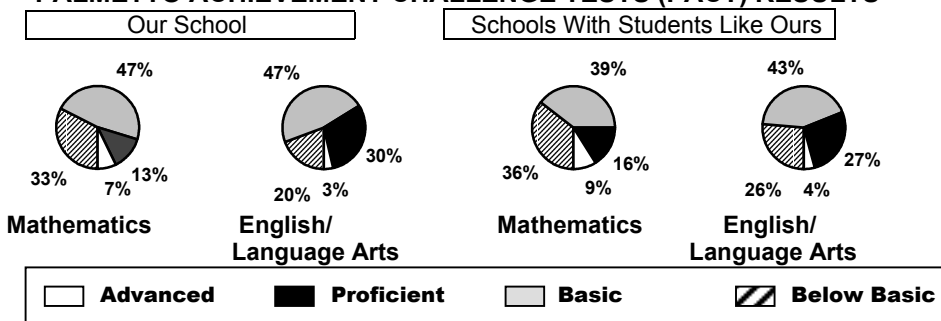
Number of middle schools with students similar to ours: 39. The absolute ratings for those schools ranged from below average to good. For the improvement ratings, the range was from unsatisfactory to good.

RATINGS OVER A 4-YEAR PERIOD

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating
2001	Average	Unsatisfactory
2002		
2003		
2004		

(Definitions of School Rating Terms on Page 4)

PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS



DEFINITIONS OF CRITICAL TERMS:

- Advanced** – Student performance exceeded expectations.
- Proficient** – Student performance met expectations.
- Basic** – Student performance met minimum performance expectations.
- Below Basic** – Student performance did not meet minimum performance expectations.

Science scores are to be reported on 2004 School Report Cards. Social studies scores are to be reported on 2005 School Report Cards.

PERCENT OF STUDENTS SCORING BASIC OR ABOVE ON THE PACT

Student Group	English/ Language Arts	Math	Science	Social Studies
All students (n=317)	80.4%	67.5%	N/A	N/A
Students with disabilities other than Speech (n=54)	46.3%	27.3%		
Students without disabilities (n=262)	87.8%	76%		
Gender				
Male (n=167)	75.4%	64.3%		
Female (n=149)	86.6%	71.1%		
Ethnic Group				
African American (n=70)	70%	60%		
Hispanic (n=2)	N/A	N/A		
White (n=242)	83.9%	69.5%		
Other (n=2)	N/A	N/A		
Lunch Status Group				
Free/reduced-price Lunch (n=116)	68.1%	59.8%		
Pay for lunch (n=200)	88%	72%		

SCHOOL PROFILE

INDICATORS OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

	Our School	Change From Last Year	Schools with Students like ours	Median Middle School
SCHOOL				
• Dollars spent per student	\$5,331	N/A	\$5,203	\$5,127
• Prime instructional time	90.5%	Up from 89.1%	89.9%	89.6%
• Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	20.9 to 1	N/A	22.3 to 1	21.4 to 1
STUDENTS (n=350)				
• Attendance rate	96.9%	Up from 96.6%	95.8%	95.7%
• Students with disabilities other than speech taking PACT (ELA) off grade level	6.6%	N/A	2.8%	4.5%
• Students with disabilities other than speech taking PACT (math) off grade level	7.3%	N/A	2.3%	4.0%
• Retention rate	1.7%	Down from 4.4%	2.5%	4.5%
TEACHERS (n=26)				
• Professional Development days per teacher	8.7 Days	Up from 7	7.8 Days	8.0 Days
• Attendance Rate	94.5%	Up from 93.5%	95.5%	95.2%
• Teachers with advanced degrees	42.3%	Up from 41.7%	49.6%	45.8%
• Continuing contract teachers	96.2%	Up from 87.5%	85.7%	80.8%
• Teachers with out-of-field permits	0%	Down from 4.2%	2.4%	2.4%
• Teachers returning from the previous school year	92%	Up from 91.7%	87.5%	83.7%
• Average teacher salary	\$36,863	Up 5.9%	\$38,282	\$37,455

SCHOOL FACTS

	Our School	Change From Last Year	Schools with Students like ours	Median Middle School
SCHOOL				
• Dropout rate	0%	N/A	0%	0.0%
• Percentage of expenditures spent on teacher salaries	57.5%	N/A	60.5%	61.5%
• Principal's years at the school	2	N/A	3	3.0
• Parents attending conferences	88%	N/A	80.8%	78.2%
• Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	N/A	Good	Good
STUDENTS				
• On academic plans	N/A	N/A	36.9%	45.8%
• On academic probation	N/A	N/A	0%	0.0%
• Older than usual for grade	6.3%	Up from 5.9%	2.6%	4.5%
• Suspended or expelled	3	N/A	14	15
• Enrolled in high school credit courses	48.7%	N/A	17%	13.2%
• Gifted and talented	16.6%	Up from 11.6%	15.4%	12.1%
• With disabilities other than speech	16.3%	Up from 13.3%	14.5%	13.6%



PRINCIPAL'S / SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT

Merriwether Middle School is located in rural Edgefield County not far from North Augusta, South Carolina. Our school serves approximately 350 sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students from various ethnic and economic backgrounds. We are unique in that we serve a large number of Irish Travelers, whose culture is very different from that of the mainstream of our society. We are committed to the middle school concept with our students scheduled in teams of teachers so that the transition from elementary to high school is made easier and so that teachers can plan for students' success and integrate units of study. Every student attends five academic classes and two exploratory classes each day. Language arts and reading classes are blocked to allow for incorporation of the Cunningham Model and to correlate speaking, listening, reading, and writing activities. Exploratory classes include art, chorus, band, physical education, keyboarding, journalism, technology, and reading and math enrichment. The CCC lab affords students an opportunity to practice skills with computer assistance. Each eighth grade student is offered courses for high school credit. Among the high school credit classes are band, keyboarding, English I and Algebra I.

Merriwether Middle School's motto is "Yes, I Can," and we are proud of our accomplishments throughout the years. We received School Incentive Award recognition in 1994-1995, 1995-1996, and 1998-1999 and a visit from the Palmetto's Finest Committee in 1997. We are currently seeking recognition by the Writing Improvement Network for our exemplary writing program, Writing Across the Millennium. Every year we have a high number of students who qualify to take the PSAT and a number of Junior Scholars. This past year our students won several writing awards at the district and state levels. Our school continues to score above the state and national averages on PACT and TerraNova.

Our school is an Accredited School with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and has an "all clear" status with the South Carolina Department of Education. We have an active PTO and School Improvement Council. We have recently undergone a change in administration and are working on restructuring as well as on updating our facility and our technology training.

Virginia W. Culbertson, Principal

EVALUATIONS BY TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Percent	Teachers	Students	Parents
Satisfied with learning environment	60.0	68.2	(Avail. 2002)
Satisfied with social and physical environment	72.0	79.5	
Satisfied with home-school relations	64.0	96.4	

DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

Excellent – School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Good – School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Average – School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Below Average – School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Unsatisfactory – School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

1901010

Merriwether Middle
430 Murrah Road
North Augusta, SC 29860

Grades 6-8 Middle School

Enrollment: 350 Students

Principal

Virginia W. Culbertson 803-279-2511

Superintendent

Dr. Sharon W. Keesley 803-275-4601

Board Chair

Bradley D. Covar 803-637-6689



THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Annual School
Report Card

2001

School Grade:
Below Average



South Carolina Performance Goal:

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

For more information, visit our website at
www.myschools.com